

REMARKS

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated January 26, 2006, the Applicants elect Group I, claims 1-16. This election is made with traverse.


The Applicants kindly point out that the Office has not advanced any reason to conclude that a serious burden exists in searching all the claims together other than asserting that the inventions have recognized divergent subject matter. This unsupported statement falls short of the Office's criteria for proper restriction. MPEP §§ 803, 808.02. The restriction is thus believed to be improper, and its withdrawal is kindly solicited.

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that he would favorably consider rejoining process claims that depend from or otherwise contain all the limitations of the allowable product.

The Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for examination on the merits. Early notification of same is kindly requested. Should the Examiner have any suggestions to place the application into even better condition for allowance, he is kindly invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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